



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

# **DCAF Bulletin**

## **Design Construction Analysis Feedback**

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### **CEMP-EC**

**Subject:**            **Contractor Quality Control Plans**

**Applicability:**    Information

**Reference:**        CEGS-01451 Contractor Quality Control  
                      ER 1180-1-6 Construction Quality Management

The goal of the Corps of Engineers is to provide a quality product to our customers on time and within budget. ER 1180-1-6, Construction Quality Management requires the inclusion of CEGS-01440, Contractor Quality Control in all contracts over \$1,000,000. Please note that CEGS-01440 was renumbered as CEGS-01451 in April 1997 and should be appearing as such in your new contracts. This specification section details how the contractor will control his construction activities and obtain the quality he contracted for. It requires him to submit a quality control (QC) plan detailing how he intends to comply with the contract. A good detailed QC plan will help us achieve quality construction. Observations during the Design Construction Evaluations indicate there are problems in this QC area. The following parts of contractor QC plans need more attention during review and approval of the plan.

1. The QC plan must include a QC organization description which shows in detail exactly who is responsible for the quality of each type of work performed. This means the name and qualifications of all the individuals responsible must be listed. If a subcontractor is doing the mechanical work and the foreman of the subcontractor is responsible for the quality of that work, his name, qualifications and responsibilities must be included in the plan. This allows the QA representative to know who is responsible and make sure he attends and is involved in the preparatory phase.

2. The QC plan must contain a letter to the individual Quality Control Manager named in the plan. This letter outlines his duties and responsibilities and gives authority to halt work which is not in compliance with contract requirements. This letter must be signed by an authorized official of the company. The QC manager will issue letters of direction to all other various QC representatives outlining duties, authorities and responsibilities and provide copies of the letters to the government.

CEMP-EC

SUBJECT: Contractor Quality Control Plans

3. The QC plan must identify all control, verification and acceptance testing procedures for each specific test. It shall list the test name, specification paragraph number requiring test, feature of work to be tested, test frequency and the person responsible for each test. It is noted that if the contractor uses a commercial testing lab, it must be approved by the Corps. If the contractor intends to set up his own lab, then this must also be inspected and approved by the Corps.

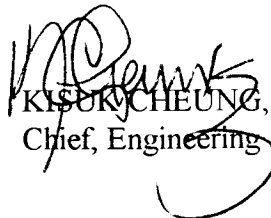
4. The QC plan must describe a procedure for tracking construction deficiencies from initial identification thru correction. It is noted that establishment of the procedures does no good unless the contractor is required to implement and maintain them.

5. Procedures for reporting, to include forms, must be included in the QC plan. This should include as a minimum, forms for daily QC activities, preparatory and initial meetings, control testing, final inspections and subcontractor QC activities forms.

6. The QC plan must also contain a list of definable features of work. There may be more than one definable feature of work in each section of the specifications. A definable feature of work is any task which is separate and distinct from other tasks, has separate control requirements, or is identified by different trades or disciplines.

7. The contractor must show how they plan to manage the submittals required by the contract. These QC procedures must show who is responsible for the review and approval of all submittals for the contractor, including those from subcontractors, offsite fabricators and suppliers. Note that the individual signing for the contractor is certifying that the submittal meets all contract requirements. If too many submittals sent to the government are not in compliance, then it is that individual who should be either retrained or replaced.

While these are not all of the items required to be in the contractors QC plan, they are problems noted during the last three years of Design Construction Evaluations. The easiest way to review a contractors QC plan is to have a copy of the contract specification section 01451 available and check off each item specified after reviewing it to determine if it will aide the contractor in obtaining the quality specified. Obtaining quality construction is a joint government and contractor effort. If we assure that the contractor has the proper tools in place and understands how they can help him obtain the quality specified, we have made our job easier.

  
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